



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

18 MEXICANS DEPORTED BY ICE

Target of an amber alert investigation among the deported

MIAMI—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that a 26-year-old Mexican national who was the target of an amber alert investigation for his alleged involvement in the abduction of a 12-year-old girl was among 18 individuals deported yesterday on a U.S. government flight.

Antonio Paulino Perez was arrested last month by law enforcement authorities in South Carolina who were acting on an amber alert tip. The 12-year-old girl was also found at the time of the arrest and subsequently reunited with her family.

Perez was not criminal prosecuted because “the evidence demonstrated that the victim went willingly with him.” Perez, did however, openly admit to having entered the country illegally. An immigration judge found him ineligible for any form of immigration relief and ordered him removed on May 31st.

“Keeping our communities safe is our top priority,” said Michael Rozos, field office director for detention and removal in Florida. “We will continue to remove those who have no legal right to remain in the United States.”

All of those deported are citizens of Mexico. Twelve had been convicted of crimes ranging from possession of cocaine to assault and robbery.

Aliens are deported aboard both commercial and government aircraft. The government’s aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S.

Illegal re-entry after deportation is a prosecutable felony offense that carries a possible 25-year prison sentence.

The Office of Detention and Removal (DRO) focuses on promoting public safety and national security by ensuring that all aliens who are subject to deportation are removed from the United States as expeditiously as possible.

Last year, ICE removed a record setting 160,000 aliens; approximately 53 percent were criminal aliens. ICE's Florida field office has removed 1,617 aliens since the beginning of Fiscal Year 05; 862 were criminal aliens.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.